NEW-YORK, MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1879.

HOW THE MAILS ARE USED.

FRAUDS UPON THE PUBLIC. A FEW OF THE SCHEMES WHICH THE POSTMASTER-MENERAL IS DEALING WITH NOW-SOME OF THE QUEER BUT INNOCENT THINGS WHICH ACCUMU

LATE IN THE DEAD LEITER OFFICE. Representative Money intends to offer a resolution in Congress to-day calling for information about the way in which the mails are used by lottery concerns and swindling enterprises. A TRIBUNE correspondent has been given access to the records of the Post Office Department, and describes in a letter, printed below, some of the more interesting frauds, information about which will be sent to Congress by the Postmaster-General, in reply to the resolution. An auction sale of articles which have accumulated at the Dead Letter Office will be begun to-day in Washington. The packages are 12,000 in number, and are of great va-

SWINDLES PERPETRATED BY MAIL.

THE WAR ON THE LOTTERY AND OTHER FRAUDU-LENT SCHEMES TO BE CARRIED INTO CONGRESS TO-DAY-WHAT A TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT DISCOVERED IN THE RECORDS OF THE POST

OM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 .- On Monday Representative Money expects to introduce a resolution in the House calling on the Postmaster-General for information in regard to lotteries and other frauds, in the perpetration of which the mails are being extensively used.

Post Office officials say that the public can have no conception of the extent and infinite variety of the schemes for fraud which are constantly coming before the Department for action. Special agents are kept constantly engaged. A remarkable degree of success has attended the efforts of the Department in this direction since the present laws went into effect; and in only two of the 117 fraudulent projects which have been discovered and acted apon have the persons interested been able to secure a reversal of the decision of the postal authorities. But these enterprises are constantly springing up, and they have to be watched and fought. In many cases it is known that persons who have been detected in unlawful enterprises in one locality have only changed their names and their base of operations, and renewed their illegitimate enterprises with profit to themselves.

A correspondent of THE TRIBUNE has been given access to the records of the Post Office Department for the purpose of examining the various classes of frauds. It is found that the majority of these cases are lotteries simply, with nothing to distinguish them from those still extensively advertised. They have been investigated by the agents of the Department, and their plan of operations having been dispovered to be fraudulent, the authorities have proceeded to extremities and curtailed their mail facilities as far as possible under the law.

In a majority of cases the integrity of the individuals accused of these swindles is attested by a formidable array of names of business firms, bank presidents and local magnates of various grades; and some of the most preposterous swindles of which the records treat bear the indorsement under official seal of court and law officials of the localities from which they are perpetrated.

A "SYNDICATE"-REVOLVERS FOR \$3.

One of the most ambitious schemes revealed by the records of the Department bore the title of the United States Syndicate. The prospectus and other documents sent out by the promoters of the swindle were filled with high-sounding dissertations upon the influx of gold and the excess of exports over imports. The project was made to bear the appearince of baving been initiated under a special act of Congress, and of being the medium through which the Treasury Department was seeking to dispose of sertain millions of its bonds to people of limited neans. A very seductive proposition to postmasiers to become the agents of the "Syndicate" seems to have been the first and only direct approach to the public. The vigilance of Postmaster James, of

Sshment extensively advertised as the Western Son Works was first started in good faith. Its enragement to send "good revolvers" to each remitter of \$3 was for a time complied with. The goods were purchased from a firm in New-York, and thousands of revolvers were sent out through the mails. After a time, however-and when the business had become very extensive-the sending of revolvers suddenly ceased. The proprietors of the establishment then confined their attention solely to the receipt and division among themselves of the remittances which were coming in in great num-

This, of course, could not go on forever; and one morning the proprietors all decamped. They, however, left written orders with an agent for the receipt of their mails from the Post Office, and private ustructions to deliver the enclosures to the wife of

one of the proprietors. A day or two later the proprietor of the New-York establishment from whom the revolvers had been purchased, and who seems also to have been a victim of the swindle, appeared upon the scene a victim of the swindle, appeared upon the scene and took possession of all he could lay his hands on, as satisfaction for his debt. He seems to have attempted to make himself whole by continuing the business of sending revolvers in return for remit-tances received, but he declined to fill the orders which had been received previously.

A REMARKABLE WATCH.

One printed circular runs as follows: . The soluctraph watch, awarded a medal at the late lar, is a combination invention of the ancient sun dial and the mariner's compass. Its extreme simplicity excites the wonder and surprise of all when they regize what it accomplishes. * * The soluctraph watch is inclosed in a ment metallic case, and is as small and compect as the smallest indies' watch. It is furnished with a neat chain, and is worn in the vest-pocket like any watch.

A sample "solargraph watch" is found among the papers dealing with the subject. The "neat metal-lic case" is of the value and general appearence of a small blacking-box. The "neat chain" is of the kind found by lucky parchasers of penny prize packages of candy. The internal "works" of the "watch" consist of a paper dial and a tiny mag-netic needle. The whole arrangement may bave

cost five cents. The letters of about a dozen firms seem to have been stopped for dealing in this and similar frauds through the mails.

A COLORADO LAND SWINDLE. "The Denver Land Company" is the title under which a species of fraud very common fifteen or twenty years ago, but more rare of late years, has

just been successfully perpetrated.

The prospectus of the company makes a very brilliant showing, of course. It is illustrated with wood-cuts of the prominent public buildings of Deuver, and sets forth in glowing terms the advantages, present and prospective, of a residence in that growing centre. The population is given as forty thousand. The mining and other industries are described in detail, and the possession of building lots is made to ap-

pear as a most desirable thing. It says: Great cities are the outgrowth of great countries. Twenty years ago Denver was a small trading post on the frontier; now it is a large city with numerous churches, hotels, theatres, street-railroads, gas-works, water-works, gold and silver smelting and refining works, with a United States Mint, and is the great railroad centre of the West.

The company promises to send by return mail to any one sending within sixty days his name and post office address a clear warrantee deed to a lot 25 feet front by 125 feet deep in North Denver, Colorado, clear of all taxes. The only condition is contained in the following paragraph: " Applications for city lots must be accompanied with one dollar for each

lot to pay cost of making and acknowledging deed, postage, etc." A certificate of title signed by W. C. Sanders, County Clerk and Recorder, is appended.

The company explains its extraordinary liberality

As the tide of immigration is now in this direction, it is the company's interest to have people locate in Denver and on their property. "The company lees not give every lot away, but each alternate one, and does not expect that every person who gets a lot in North Denver will come here, but a great many will, and will induce their friends to follow.

The success which attended this effort may be judged by an incidental mention in one of the reports upon the subject, dated November 6, that eighoney orders had been paid to the Denver Land Company that morning, and by a telegraphic report dated two days later, stating that hundreds of ordinary letters were arriving daily, presumably containing remittances of \$1 or more.

The nature of the fraud may be judged by the following extracts from the reports made by agents of

the Post Office Department:

As I understand, "North Denver" is a tract of wild land eighteen miles from this city. It is in another wild county, and the lots are being advertised and soid as North Denver, which name itself carries with it the impression that it is an addition or a suburb to this city. The apparent object is to dup e people into buying in the belief that they are getting property contiguous to Denver.

The same agent, in a later report, says: "I have learned to-day the exact situation of the land platted as North Denver. It is thirty-four and a half miles northeast of Denver and entirely unimproved."

The result of the investigation is summarized in the telegraphic report that the "managers of the frandulent Denver Land Company, whose registered mail and money orders are stopped, have been arrested and committed."

PIANOS AND COUNTERFEITS.

The "unparallelled offer" of the Bristol Piano Company is such a manifest humbug that it is a marvel that anyone should have been duped by it. A flaming poster with a wood cut of a grand piano solid black walnut case," etc., to "any person who will forward us a list of twenty persons in their locality who have no instrument and who you think would be liable to purchase a piano." The significant condition is appended that the person sending the list shall enclose \$2.25 " to cover expenses of

The sawdustswingle or something akin to it appears in a slightly varied form. A circular beginning "Do you know a good thing when you see it? If so keep this to yourself," was sent out from Jackson, Mich. It embodied an offer to send for \$3 in good money five counterfeit fives gotten up in unsurpassed style of workmanship, and by a new process made to appear worn and stained as if they had

long been in circulation. This circular was followed in a few days by a econd, purporting to emanate from the office of the Jackson Secret Service Detective Association, ask-

Jackson Secret Service Detective Association, asking the cooperation of the person to whom it was addressed in detecting and bringing to punishment a gang of counterfeiters who had successfully cluded the efforts of the Government to find them, and whose wares were of a character to defy the efforts of the best experts to detect them.

The second circular was of course only designed as an indeprenent of the value of the goods advertised in the first, and to excite the cupadity of the intended dupe to whom both were addressed.

The Postmaster in forwarding the documents reported incidentally that he had several registered letters for the address given in the first circular. Chief Brooks, of the Treasury Secret Service, to whom such schemes are as an open book, first brought this matter to the attention of the postal authorities. In his letter he says that "like the traditional Celtic flea," they would doubtless soon skip away to other and fresher fields of enterprise.

THE AUCTION SALE TO-DAY.

A VERY GOOD IDEA AFFORDED AS TO THE QUEER FIND THEIR WAY INTO THE MAILS. IGENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 .- The Post Office Department has issued a ca alogue enumerating nearly 12,000 separate "lots" of articles which have accumulated in the Dead Letter Office, and are to be sold at auction in this city during the present week, beginning to-morrow. The schedule advertises about as heterogeneous a collection as it is possible to imagine. Among the articles so carelessly mailed that no clew can be discovered to their ownerership are gold watches, chains, rings and jewelry of all kinds; every description Sew-York, seems to have been the chief obstacle to of wearing apparel, from men's overalls to babics' socks, book and pictures by the thousand: musical instruments, clocks, bed quilts, nails and hardware of almost all descrip tions (including iron castings for machinery); perfumery, tobacco and cigars; cheese (not excepting the Limburger variety), and almost all other sorts of ordinary shop merchandise, besides "miscellane-ous articles" less susceptible of classification, which range from artificial teeth and false hair to stuffed birds and geological specimens.

THE WAR ON POLYGAMY.

TWO BILLS TO BE INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLITS-NEW EVIDENCE AGAINST DELEGATE

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TELBUNE.)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Representative Willits, of Michigan, who is a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, is making a careful study of the Mormon question with a view to the amendment of the laws against polygamy. Mr. Willits will to-morrow introduce two bills on this subject, and move their reference to the Judiciary Committee. One of these bills provides for an amendment of the Jury law of Utah, making the practice of polygamy, or a belief that it is morally or legally right for a man to have more than one wife at the same time, a sufficient cause for the challenge and rejection of a jurer on any trial of an offence against the anti-polygamy laws. The other bill deprives all persons in the Territories, women as well as men, who may live in the polygamous relation, of the right to vote or hold office. The first and second sections of this bill are as follows:

and second sections of this bill are as follows:

SECTION 1. That hereafter no person shall be entitled to vote at any election held in any Territory of the United States or be eligible to hold any office under the laws of the United States, or those of any Territory, who, at the time of offering to vote, or of being chosen to any such office, is a bignuinst or polygamist, or living with and claiming to be the busband of more than one woman, or is cohabiting with more than one woman, recognizing or claiming them as his wives, whether married to any of them by the ordinary rites and coremonies of marriage or by the rites, ceremony or proceeding known as scaling, or any other ceremony or proceeding known as scaling, or any other ceremony or proceeding known as scaling, or any other ceremony or proceeding known as scaling, or any other ceremony or proceeding known as scaling, or any other ceremony or proceeding known as scaling, or any other ceremony or the ceremony or proceeding known as scaling, or any other ceremony or the ceremony or proceeding known as scaling, or any other ceremony or the ceremony or proceeding known as scaling, or any other ceremony or proceeding known as scaling, or any other ceremony or proceeding known as scaling, or any other ceremony or proceeding known as scaling, or any other ceremony or proceeding known as scaling, or on the claim and the complex of the laws of the United States prohibiting bigamy and polygamy.

SEC. 2. Any woman having more than one husband, or not being the first and only wife who cohabits with any men who is a bigamist, as his wife, recognized by him as such, however such marital relations shall have been created or consummated, shall be subject to the same disabilities as to voting or holding office as are set forth in Section 1 of this act.

Other sections of the bill prescribe the form of

Other sections of the bill prescribe the form of oath to be taken by a voter in case of a challenge, and fix the punishment for a violation of the oath A bill making common repute and the fact of co-habitation sufficient proof of a polygamous marriage, and providing that the statute of limitations cannot be pleaded by a polygamist until two years after the last act of cohabitation, will also be brought forward. Mr. Willits has had several conversations with the President on the subject, and he says that President Hayes is very carnest in his desire that some way should be found to make the antipolygamy laws more perfect and effective.

In this connection it may be said that information which is believed to be trust-worthy has been received here to the effect that Belegate Cannon, of Utah, who is under indictment for a -violation of the anti-polygamy laws, has taken a fifth wife within so recent a period that his plea of the statute of limitations will not avail him. There is talk of bringing Delegate Cannon's case up in the House of Representatives, of which he is a member. It is more than probable that some attempt of the kind will be made at the present session of Congress. In this connection it may be said that

FEARS OF A WAR WITH THE UTES. WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 .- It is reported by Army lief of an immediate Indian war prevails in military circles. They say that, notwithstanding the favor-

Ute murderers will not be given up. General Sherman has said nothing on the subject; and his order keeping General Mackenzie at Fort Garland is interpreted to mean that trouble is anticipated.

THE EPHEMERIS FOR 1882.

THIS VOLUME, THE FIRST, OF ITS KIND PREPARED UNDER PROFESSOR NEWCOMB, JUST OUT-MANY IMPROVEMENTS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.-The American Astronomic cal Ephemeris for the year 1882, the first one pre pared under the superintendence of Professor Newcomb, has just been issued from the Bureau of Navgation. A number of improvements have been made, designed to render the work more useful to astronomical observers and surveying parties. The maps of the eclipses are on a much larger scale than usual. Two very full maps showing the course of the transit of Venus in 1882 are given. Diagrams of all the satellites of the different planets are printed, to enable observers to identify any satellite at any time. Those of Jupiter and Saturn are given in much more detail than before. Professor Newcomb is continuing at the Nantical Almanac office the reas continuing at the Antical Annihal mode that searches on the celestial motions which he began at the observatory, with the increased facilities offered by his larger computing force. He intends to prepare new tables of all the planets to replace the old ones, which are in many cases so inaccurate as to be no longer worth using.

GENERAL GRANT COMING EASTWARD,

A PLEASANT BANQUET AT PITTSBURG. PITTSBURG, Dec. 14 .- Two hundred of the nost prominent citizens, irrespective of party ties, attended the banquet given at the Monongahela House last night in honor of General Grant. The banquet hall was decorated profusely with evergreens, flowers and banners. John H. Ricketson, a merchant, presided. After speeches by Mr. Ricketson and W. D. Moore, General Grant responded to the toast " Our Guest" as fol-

lows:

This being Saturday night it is beroly legitimate to keep open longer than noidinght, in deference to the Sabbath. I find in looking over the toasts that the speeches must be confined to an average of seven minutes if we are to get through in time. We have had two speeches already, occupying thirteen and one-bail minutes, so that gives me just about half a minute yet. [Great laughter.] My powers of speech making never were very good, but my knowledge of mathematics was rather perfect. Now I have figured this down to a nicety [creat applause], and the more time I can spend in this way the less I will have to say about other things in maxing my speech. The Vice-President has pleasantly aliuded to the fact that I sent him an able-bodied man from the South up North. Well, I was down there for that purpose. [Great laughter and cheers.] We were always gia i to get able-bodied men who were in the South at that time up North [faughter], and if we couldn't get them up any other way we sent them up under guard, and we were willing to furnish rations to them, but we were always glad to get able-bodied men who would support themselves and not require able-bodied solders to guard them. [Laughter.] I wanted to get him North for I knew that he would stay North if he once got there and never take up arms against us. [Cheers.] Mr President, has not my time expired!

"No, sir. You have one-quarter of a minute," the "No, sir. You have one-quarter of a minute," the

presiding officer replied. General Grant then held up a half-smoked eigar and

in the evening, for now I can sit here and see you all enjoy yourselves.

Species were subsequently made by Judges Agnew, Kirkparrick, Collins and others.

Mrs. General Grant held a reception at the residence of Mrs. Judge Stowel, where she received calls from the wives and daughters of leading citizens.

General Grant passed to-day quietly. He attended Christ's (Methodist Episcopsi) Courch in the morring, accompanied by General Kane, an old friend, and colonel of the Pennsylvania Bucktail Regiment during the war. Mrs. Grant contracted a cold and could see no visitors, General Grant and party leave for Harrisburg to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock, accompanied by the Legislative Committee, Adjutant-General Latta and others of the Governor's staff, and General Briabin, of the United States Army, and wife.

GALLANT RESCUE AT LONG BRANCH.

SEVEN MEN SAVED FROM THE ARTIE GREENWOOD-THE SCHOONER WRECKED,

Long Branch, N. J., Dec. 14.-Seven men were gallantly rescued, this morning, from the schooner Artic Greenwood, bound from Philadelphia for Boston which went ashore in front of the East-End Hotel. The rescue was effected by the Life-Saving crews Nos. 4

rigging, three being on the malumast and four on the foremast. The sea was dashing over the deck and covering the men with spray. The men were fast becoming men clinging to it, who were promptly carried ashore by the breeches buoy. As the men on the foremast could no get over to the mainmast, the surfmen launched a life-boat and took them off. Robert Patterson (colored) was so to the boat, whence he was carried to a hotel. All this time rain fell in torrents. Hundreds of people watched the rescue from the beach, and rejoiced at its success. Captain Stevens explains in nautical phrase the cir cumstances of the wreck. He says the schooner was all right up to 9 o'clock, when the forethread and flying-lib down. The damage was repaired, but in the meantime the schooner drifted shoreward, and in attempting to tack missed stays. The port anchor was at once dropped, but it draged, and the vessel was soon aground. This evening she parted amidships, and will probably go to pieces during the night. The coal was consigned to the Lowell Manufacturing Company, of Bostop. The schoon-er was owned largely in Tuckahoe, N. J., and was partly issured.

NEW-JERSEY RIFLE CONTESTS.

CAMDEN, N. J., Dec. 14 .- New-Jersey and Pennsylvania marksmen participated in a subscription match at the Short Rifle Range yesterslay afternoon. The highest scores were: William J. Shanks, 44; D. Riche, 42; D. Schaffer, 40; M. Castle, 40; W. Parmenther, 40. At Elizabeth there was good shooting in the match at short range. The three winners were: Shaffer, with a score of 44, Lewison, with 43, and Conkiln, with a lower 43.

EXPELLED FOR IMMORAL CONDUCT.

St. Louis, Dec. 14 .- A special dispatch to The Republican from Houston, Texas, says: "The Ma-sonic Grand Ledge of this State yesterday approved the action of the Waxahachie Lodge in expelling the Rev. W. G. Veal, a well-known minister of the Gospel, for immoral conduct, affecting the domestic happiness of a brother Mason."

MORE BIRD-KILLING.

PAMRAPO, N. J., Dec. 14 .- William Godref, of New-York, and James Stillwell, of Bergen Point, con tested yesterday afternoon at this place a match of fifty birds, the purse being \$50. The match and stake went to Mr. Godref. who killed 22. Mr. Stillwell

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES-BY TELEGRAPH.

DRUNKENNESS AND SUICIDE.

PROVIDENCE. R. I.: Dec. 14.—Farrell Murray,
who was committed to a cell for drunkenness Saturday afternoon, to-day died from injuries he inflicted in attempting to
commit spicide.

commit spicide.

FATALLY INJURED BY VITRIOL

SCRANTON, Penn., Dec. 14.—A boy named Roach
died yes erday from injuries caused by old of vitriol which
flowed on him from a broken vessel, while he was carrying it
home on horseback.

nowed on him from a broken vesses, while no was carrying it home on horseback.

THE NITRO-GLYCERINE EXPLOSION.

Amherstburg, Ont., Dec. 14.—There were about three tons of miro-sigcethe exploded by the fire which reached the magazine remains.

BUICIDE OF AN EX-ARMY OFFICER.

DENVER, Dec. 14.—Ex-Lieutenant Charles W. Merritt shot himself dead vester ay at the Exchange Hotel, sants Fé. He was dismissed from the Army about three weeks ago by a general court-martial.

THREE LIVES LOST.

RUTLAND, Vt., Dec. 14.—The accident on the Addison Railroad, at Larrabee's Pont, Vt., on Lake Champlain shore, last night, caused the death of the engineer, O. P. stinson, the fireman, Edward Markham, and the bridge-tender, D. F. Lyman. The train left Ruthand in the afternoon for The Conderings, N. Y.

A SLAVEHOLDER SET FREE.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

DON CAMERON AS CHAIRMAN. MR. KEMBLE TO BESIGN-MR. CAMERON TO TAKE

HIS PLACE AND THEN TO BE ELECTED CHAIR-MAN-POLITICIANS IN WASHINGTON MUCH IN-TERESTED IN THE MOVEMENT.

A movement is on foot for making Senator J. D. Cameron first a member of the Republican National Committee, in place of Mr. Kemble, and then chairman. Politicians at Washington, where the committee will meet on Tuesday, have various theories about the object of the movement. It is said that Mr. Cameron is supported by friends of Secretary Sherman, in the belief that he will make their candidate his second choice. A declaration from General Grant in relation to a third term is expected to made at his reception this week at Philadelphia.

MR. CAMERON NOT YET A MEMBER.

KEMBLE TO RESIGN IN ORDER TO LET CAMERON GO ON THE COMMITTEE-GRANT THE OBJECTIVE POINT-SOME, BUT UNORGANIZED, OPPOSITION. FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. CINCINNATI, Dec. 13, 1879.—Two important things may be said of General Grant's recent visit

It did not evoke so much enthusiasm as had been

It brought to the knowledge of some clear-headed people what they regard as positive and absolute proof that Ganeral Grant himself is determined to be again President. The rest of all there is here to be told of the Grant visit the telegraph has told

From Chicago there comes an interesting episode. It has been decided that United States Senator Don Cameron shall be made chairman of the Republican National Committee. He is not now even a member; but Kemble is to resign, Cameron is to be appointed in his place and is then to be made chairnan. Leading politicians who have talked with Cameron lately on the subject say that he frankly states that he agreed some time ago that his name might be used, and that even if he wished, it is now too late for him to change. The manipulation of this plan is believed to have been conducted throughout from Chicago. It comprises three parts, the first being Den Cameron for chairman of the Committee, the second being Chicago for the place of holding the National Convention, and the third Grant for the

There will probably be a sharp contest in the Com mittee, and the names of Frge, William E. Chandler, Thomas C. Platt, R. C. McCormick and others are canvassed for the chairmanshp, but to a rather cold-blooded and comparatively indifferent observer here, Cameron's prospects seem the strongest. He will have the support of a curious combination. The Grant men are for him, of course, and some Sherman influences will go for him because of his relation to the Sherman family, if not for less easily recognized political reasons.

WHAT THEY SAY AT WASHINGTON.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO MEET ON TUES DAY - THE POSITION OF MR. SHERMAN'S FRIENDS-A CRITICISM BY MEMBERS OF THE

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 .- The report printed in THE TRIBUNE on Saturday that Senator J. D. Cameron is to take the place on the National Republican Committee made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Kemble, of Pennsylvania, and that Senator Cameron is the Sherman candidate for the chairmanship of the com-mittee, has been an interesting topic of discussion among Republican politicians in Washington during the past two days, especially among those members of the committee who have arrived here for the purpose of attending the meeting on Tuesday.

In the first place some surprise has been expressed mittee should accept Senator Cameron as The seven men composing the crew were all in the their candidate, since he is known not only to be avowedly a Grant man, but also General Grant's President said to a friend, who has since made the conversation public, that Senator Cameron was the best man to fill the vacancy in the Republican National Committee. Ever since that the friends of General Grant have been working to bring about his election to the place. It is true that Secretary Sherman's friends will probably vote for Mr. Cameron ; but it will not be because they expect him to support the Secretary the Treasury as his first choice the Presidency, but because there is no Sherman man on the committee of sufficient prominence and experience in National politics to become a candidate for the place. They think, also, that in case General Grant should not go into the contest, or should be beaten, Mr.Cameron will then transfer his support to Mr. Sherman.

That the Cameron movement is first Grant movement, and if successful will put the Grant "boom" fairly going. does not admit a doubt. It is said by some, in talking of this matter, that General Grant has not yet announced his desire for a third term or his intention of entering a canvass. It is true that he has not formally done so, but his closest friends in this city unquestionably expect that he will enter the contest soon; and if Senator Cameron should be elected chairman of the National Committee on Tuesday, his reception in Philadelphia this week will be watched with the greatest interest by all well-informed Republicans Washington as the probable occa-when the ex-President will make known to the people of the country his wishes in regard to serving another term in the Executive Aside from the bearing which the election of

a new chairman will have upon the political fortunes of prominent Republican candidates for the Presidency, there are other considerations which have much weight with members of the committee. The body which will meet in this city on Tuesday is not self-constituted. Nor is it appointed by the several State and Territorial Committees. It is elected by the whole Republican party, in its National Convention although to be sure, on the nomination of the State and Territorial delegations. It derives its power from the Convention itself, whose representative it is. Mr. Cameron, if he should become a member of the committee, will not have been selected in that way, and will enter the body, not for the honor of serving as one of its members, but for the specific purpose of becoming its chairman.

The older members of the committee, some of whom have served upon it through several Presidential campaigns and served with faithfulness and ability, feel that it is hardly complimentary to them to bring in a new man for the simple purpose of making him chairman. The only inference that could be fairly drawn from such action, they say, would be that the committee as it now stands does not contain a man who is in all respects fit for the place. This interference, as every Republican knows, would be exceedingly erroneous. is it appointed by the several State and

as every kendifican knows, would be exceedingly erroneous.

The above is the substance of the talk one hears to-day about Senator Cameron's candidacy. It may serve as a key to a better understanding of the proceedings of the committee, when it meets. It has been remarked that altogether too much prominence has been given to the choice of a chairman of the National Committee, because the only duty he will have to perform will be to call the next National Convection to order. On the other hand, it is urged that this election may have considerable moral effect upon the fortunes of the most prominent candidates, and that it would not be at all strauge if the National

Committee next year should be presided over by the chairman who is to be chosen this week.

About a dozen Western members of the committee have arrived here since last night. Several of them came through from Chicago in company with a delegation from that city headed by ex-Congressman C. B. Farwell. The delegation is here to set forth the advantages of Chicago as a place for the holding of the Convention. These gentlemen say that at least 20 of the 47 members of the committee are in favor of holding the Convention at Chicago. It is understood that an Indiana delegation will arrive here to-morrow to advocate the claims of Indianapolis.

apolis.

An Eastern member of the committee said to-night that he thinks that Chicago will be the place chosen, although he would vote to hold the Convention in one of the Eastern States, if a combined effort should be made by Eastern men in favor of any particular place.

As to preferences for chairman, nearly all the members who have arrived are in favor of William E. Chandler or Representative Frye. Several of the Western members are in favor of General Grant's nomination for the Presidency; but most of these are for Blaine as a second choice. It is said that only one of the members of the committee now in the city is in favor of Secretary Sherman's nomination.

THE FIRE RECORD.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE. WOMAN KILLED AND TWO MEN AND TWO CHIL-DREN INJURED AT LITTLE ROCK.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Dec. 14 .- This morning the orick livery stable at Scott and Elm-sts. was liscovered to be in flames, and in a few hours was destroyed. The fire communicated to a cotton compress adjoining, which was also burned. The family of J. Gillis were asleep on the second story, and, the only practicable avenue of escape being cut off when they were aroused, Mr. Gillis and his wife dropped their children out of a window to the ground below on Scott-st. The wife was suffocated by the smoke, and, falling back, was burned. Mr. Gillis jumped from a window and was picked up in an unconscious condition from injuries about the head. It is thought that he inhaled flames and is fatally injured. Both children were severely injured. About ten horses and several carriages and buggies were destroyed. It is estimated that 100 bales of cotton were burned at the compress. The loss on the stable and stock is about \$10,000. The building belonged to Bishop Fitzgerald. The compress is injured to the amount of \$25,000, and is insured for only \$1,000. There is an insurance of \$10,000 on the burned cotton. the only practicable avenue of escape being cut off

the burned cotton.

A fireman named Brown, of the Urquenart Hose Company, was dangerously hurt by the falling of the outer stairway of the Odd Fellows' Building, which he tried to descend to escape the falling front.

IN NORTH MOORE STREET.

A fire was discovered at 2 a. m. yesterday in the extension of the two-story brick building at No. 107 North Moore st., occupied by Thomas Elliott. The building was nearly destroyed. It was owned by the De Forest estate and was valued at \$3,000. The upper floor was occupied by families, who barely escaped. The loss to the tenants was about \$100. The flames also extended to the stable of Hawkins & Steele, in the rear of No. 105, burning a valuable horse and causing a damage of \$1,000. The buildings at Nos. 226, 227 and 228 West-st, were damaged slightly by water.

AT PROVIDENCE, R. I.-LOSS \$15,000. PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 14.-A fire last ight in William J. Arnold's planing mill caused a loss of \$15,000; insured. Stephen A. Dunham, a fireman, fell from the roof of the mill and was dangerously hurt.

OBITUARY.

JAMES M. EDMUNDS. Washington, Dec. 14.-Postmaster James M. Edmunds, City Postmaster, died at his residence this afternoon, at half-past 3 o'clock. He had been suffering with Bright's disease—the cause of his death -for over a year, and had been confined to his house since Novem-

Mr. Edmunds was born in Niagara County, N. Y., August 23, 1810. He received an academical education, and from 1826 to 1831 was a school teacher. ducation, and from 1820 to 1831 was a school cent net.
He then removed to Michigan and became a merchant
at Ypsilanti. For ten years he was a school faspector,
there, and also held a number of other local positions.
In 1839 he was elected to the State Senate, and in 1846 he was elected to the State House of Representatives. He was the Whig condidate for Governor in 1847, but tered extensively into the lumber business. From 1857 so 1861 he was Controller of Detroit. He resigned that office to become Commissioner of the General Land Office in Washington. In 1866 he was made Postmaster of the city. Mr. Edmunds was Chairman of the Michigan Republican State Central Committee from 1855 to 1861; also President of the Michigan Soldiers' Relief Association in Washington from 168 organization, and President of the National Council of the Union Lengue of America from 1862 to 1869. He was also Secretary of the Republican Congressional Committee for several years. tered extensively into the lumber business. From 1857

JOHN HENRI BOWLES.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., Dec. 14 .- John Henri Bowles, who was well known in newspaper circles, died last evening of Bright's disease. He was sixty-seven years of age.

GEORGE BOWEN.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 14.-George Bowen a prominent Newport Quaker, and president of the New-England Commercial Bank, died suddenly last night of heart disease.

BUSINESS INTERESTS.

THE KANSAS PACIFIC RAILWAY. St. Louis, Dec. 14.-I is reported here that the United States Circuit Court at Topeka, Kan., yesterday set aside the sale of the Kansas Pacific Railay to Jay Gould, and refused to order another sale A late dispatch from Topeka says the action in the United States Court yesterday, in the case of Adolphus Weir against the Kansas Pacific Railway, was the motion to set aside the master's sale. It was sustained, and the motion to file a supplemental bili of review was

CONVICTS TO BUILD A RAILROAD. LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Dec. 14.-Colonel Zeb. Ward, lessee of the penitentiary, last night closed a contract for the construction of the Little Rock and Pine Binf Railroad. Work will begin immediately at Little Rock. Four bundred convicts will be employed. The grading is to be done by April 1, and the entire road to be in operation by July 1, 1880.

THE PLOT IN MAINE.

AUGUSTA, Me., Dec. 14 .- Another petition asking for an investigation of the charges that the election returns have been tampered with was sent from Portland yesterday to the Governor and Council. The petition is signed by many of the most promi-nent and distinguished citizens of Portland, includ-ing Lot M. Morrill, Sidney Perham and Israel Wash-burn.

A MURDERER CONVICTED.

CANTON, Ohio, Dec. 14.-Gustave Ohr has been found guilty of the murder of John Whatmough, of Philadelphia, near Alliance, Ohlo, last June. A similar erdict was rendered against Ohr's confederate, George Maun, on December 6. Whatmough had been in Obio seeking work, and was returning on foot when be was murdered and robbed.

THE STEAMER CLYDE DISABLED.

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., Dec. 14.-The steamer Clyde, of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company from New-York, bound for Aspinwall, arrived here to day, towed in by the steamer Blackstone, of the Miner Transportation Company, with the loss of her propeller, shaft broken, and her engine damaged.

A VENERABLE PASTOR PARALYZED.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 14 .- The Rev. George White, rector of Calvary Protestant Episcopal Church, was stricken with paralysis while addressing a Sundayschool class. He is in an extremely critical condition. He is eighty-two years old, and is universally respected.

A SCHOONER RUN DOWN.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 14 .- Last night the chooner Dexter, trading in Chesapeake Bay, was run down in the harbor by the convoy tug of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The schooner went to the bottom with all sails standing. Her erew were rescued.

COURTNEY RETIRES.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Dec. 14 .- Courtney, in an nterview to-day, says that he is in no condition to

AFFAIRS IN FOREIGN LANDS.

GENERAL ROBERTS ABOUT TO RENEW THE FIGHT-

THE AFGHANS DEFEATED.

ING-MORE MEETINGS HELD IN IRELAND. General Roberts has succeeded in defeating the Afghans posted near Cabul, but as some hostile bands had not dispersed he intended to renew the fighting yesterday if they were still in the field; the casualties are heavy, six officers being killed and ten wounded; the total loss in killed and wounded was 119. Russia suggests that the Powers should take steps to hasten the surrender of Gusinje, to the Montenegrins. Several large public meetings were held in Ireland yesterday. The French Ministers are likely to reorganize the

MORE FIGHTING NEAR CABUL. SIX BRITISH OFFICERS KILLED.

Cabinet of their own accord.

LONDON, Dec. 14, 1879.

General Roberts telegraphs from Cabul on Saturday that the enemy have been defeated on all sides, but that, notwithstanding their heavy losses, some Afghan troops still remain in the neighborhood. General Roberts announced his intention to make an attack to-day unless these forces disperse. The total British loss during the three days' fighting is forty-three killed, including six officers, and

seventy-six wounded, of whom ten are officers. A letter, dated Candahar, the 1st inst., and published at Bombay, says: "General Stewart has been instructed to send a messenger to Ayoub Khan, the Afghan commander of Herat, requiring him to hold Herat in the name of the British Government, and threatening the advance thither of a British force in case of his failure to do so."

A LARGE AFGRAN FORCE ASSEMBLED. LONDON, Monday, Dec. 15, 1879. The Standard's Bombay dispatch says: "The

Ghuznee force has been swollen by great numbers

of men from the native tribes, and the aggregate

force opposed to us is very large." THE FRENCH MINISTRY. Paris, Dec. 14, 1879. The Temps says: "No modification of the Ministry will be made notil after the adjournment of the Chambers." The Committee of the Chamber of Deputies on the resolution to suspend the operation of the law declaring that the Judges shall be irremovable

was elected yesterday. Nine of the members favor and two are opposed to the suspension of the law. All of the Ministers absented themselves from their respective bureaus during the elections.

The Paris Temps asserts that the Ministry will avail themselves of the retirement of M. Le Royer from the Ministry of Justice to reconstitute the Cabinet of their own motion. In the reorganization M. Waddington will only retain the foreign portfolio. The choice for Premier less between M. Leon Say, Minister of Finance, and M. de Freycinet, Minister of Public Works. If M. de Freycinet accepts the leadership he will have complete freedom of action in choosing his colleagues, and when the Cabinet is formed he will, with them, determine upon a common programme.

THE MONTENEGRIN CLAIM.

Paris newspapers print a Vienna telegram which asserts that Russia has proposed to the Powers a collective step at Constantinopic to accelerate the sur-render of Gusinje to Montenegro. The Porte on its part has sent a circular to its representatives abroad reciting the measures taken to secure the surrender of Gusinje and expressing the hope that the Montenegrins will not precipitate matters, as some delay is necessary if bloodshed is to be avoided.

A telegram from Cettinje announces that Mukhtar Pacha, who is at Prisrend with ten battalions, has saked for reinforcements, and that twenty battalious have started to his relief.

THE IRISH AGITATION.

LONDON, Dec. 14, 1879. Several large Land agitation meetings ere held in the West of Ireland to-day. The meeting at Ballina was presided over by a Catholic ciergyman A corps of pikemen surrounded the place of meeting. Government reporters were present, taking notes of the specches. All of the speakers advocated a pensant

Auother meeting was held at Carrick-on-Shannon, whereat Messrs, Davitt, Daly, Killen and Breunan, the recently released prisoners, were present. The Grand Jury at Carrick-on-Shannon have returned a true bill against Brennan.

THE SPANISH COMPLICATIONS. The Senate yesterday continued the discusrs Ruiz and Gomez spoke in opposition to the bill The Ministerialist journals of to-day announce that th Cabinet Council has determined to take no steps regarding members of the minority absenting themselves from the Chambers. They also state that Senor Canovas del Castillo has had interviews with General Martinez Campos and Senor Quesada, both of whom condemn the attitude of the minority.

RUSSIAN RESTRICTIONS. St. Petersburg, Dec. 14, 1879.
The Governor-General of Kharkoff has issued an order prohibiting to the public the manufacture, sale or possession of any explosive materials.

A SIX DAYS' WALK FOR WOMEN.

THE START THIS MORNING AT MADISON SQUARE

A "ladies' international six-days go-as-youplease race" for "the American international cham-pionship belt of the world" was begun at 12:01 a. m. to-day at the Madison Square Garden. The affair is a speculation on the part of D. E. Rose. The contest will last until 11:55 next Saturday night, and at that hour the woman who has covered the greatest number of miles will receive the belt, valued at \$500, and \$1,000 in each. The contestant finishing second will receive \$750; a prize of \$500 is offered to the third and 2500 to the fourth. To the contestant having the near est and best appearance on the track during the race a medal valued at \$100 will be given. No entrance fee has been charged to the contestants. It is under-stood that some of the more prominent women walkers have been guaranteed a certain sum whether they win or not, but it is also said that the amount is not sufficiently large to make it likely that any one of them will "throw" the race should she hap-pen to be the probable winner. The belt is to continue to be the property of Mr. Rose until won twice in

succession by the same person. In all future contests the gate money is to be divided among the winners. There were thirty-three entries for the present contest, but only twenty-five started this morning. The Garden has been arranged in the same manner as it was on the occasion of the Rowell contest, with the exception of the sleeping accommodations, Twenty-five wooden structures face the track on the Twenty-seventh-st. side, near the Fourth-ave. en.l, and they st. side, near the Fourth-ave. en I, and they are furnished with such articles as are supposed to be necessary for a six-days walking campaign. The dormitories are not all occupied, however, as half a dozen of the "stars" have secured tents for their use, and these have been pitched on the floor.

Just before midnight the twenty-five contestants appeared before the referee. They were all neally dressed to bright colors and presented a picturesque appearance. The following are the names of the starters:

Madame Anderson; Miss Ida Vernon, Lancaster, Penn.;
Miss Marie Rockwell, Brooklyn, L. L.; Miss Exilde La

ance. The following are the unnes of the staters:
Madame Anderson; Miss Ida Vernon, Lancaster, Penn.;
Miss Marie Rockwell, Brooklyn, L. L.; Miss Exilde La
Chapelie, Paris; Miss Fannie Edwards; Madame Toblas;
Miso Cora Cushing; Miss Amy Howard, NowYork; Madame Andreu, the "Indian Queen";
Miss Laiu Loomer; Miss Minnie Horton; Miss Relia
Kilbery, New Jersey; Miss Maggte Smith, Hrooklyn;
Muss Aggie Cooke, New York; Miss May Mussleutt,
Springfield, Mass.; Miss Rosa Li Ruse, Warsechau, Russla; Miss Adele De Rose, Montreal, Canada; Mrs. Aunie
Davis, New York; Miss Rosa Cerito, New York; Miss
Carrie Andelson, New York; Miss May Jacobs, New
York; Miss Maggie Rowell, Boston, Mass.; Miss Laura
Warren, Philadelphia; Miss Cameron, Miss Vernon.
At the word "go" all of the women stepped off together, Miss Rowell following the example of her English namesake and breaking into a run. She scored the
first lap and was followed closely by Madame Andreu,
the "Indian Queen." Before the first half mile
had been made the women were well strungount. The first mile was scored in 6 min.
and 50 see, by Miss Rowell, followed closely
by Miss Warren. Considerable amusement was
created shortly after the start by a man dressed as a
woman, with alarge "32" around his neck, skipping
around the track. He was met by a police officer, and
his little jake cost him his liberty, as he was
taken to the police station. There were about
1,200 spectators present, and the best order was
maintained. Just before the start Mr. Rose announced
to the contestants that he would give \$100 to any contestant who made 100 miles in twenty-four hours. At
I o'clock only a few of the spectators had left the
hall-ling.